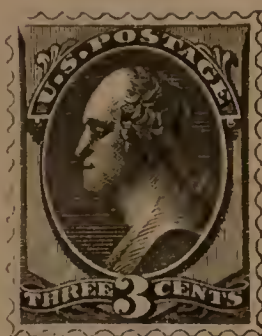


MASON'S
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COLLECTORS'



MAGAZINE.

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THE MINT AT PHILADELPHIA.

(Concluded.)

Under the triangle, buried in the lower part of the arch, is a steel cup, or, technically, a "die stake." Into this is fastened the reverse die, or according to boys' dialect, the "tail" die. The die stake is arranged to rise about the eighth of an inch, but when down it rests firmly on the solid foundation of the arch. Over the die stake is a steel collar or plate, in which is a hole just large enough to allow a blank to drop upon the die. In the triangle above the obverse die is fastened, which moves with the triangle; and, when the knee is straightened, the die fits into the collar and presses down upon the reverse die.

Just in front of the triangle is an upright tube made of brass, and of the size to hold the blanks to be coined. The blanks are examined by the girl in attendance, and the perfect ones are placed in this tube. As they reach the bottom they are seized singly by a pair of steel feeders, in motion as similar to that of the finger and thumb as is possible in machinery, and carried over the collar and dropped upon the die. The knee is straightened, forcing the obverse die to enter the collar and press both sides of the blank at once. The sides of the collar are fluted, and the intense pressure expands the blank about the sixteenth of an inch, filling the collar and producing on the coin the fluted or reeded edge. It is put on to prevent any of the gold being filed away.

After the blank has been dropped upon the die, the feeders slide back on the little platform extending in front of the machine, in readiness to receive another. The knee is bent, which raises the die about half an inch above the collar. The die stake is raised at the same time, so as to lift the newly-born coin from the collar, and the feeders coming along with another blank, push the coin over into a sloping channel, whence it slides into a box underneath. The pressure on the double eagle is about seventy-five tons, yet so rapid are all these complex motions that eighty double eagles are coined in a minute; and while the reader has been studying out this explanation probably ten or twelve thousand dollars could be struck on a single press. The smaller pieces, such as dimes and half dimes, are coined

at the rate of one hundred and forty a minute. While usually only seventy-five tons pressure are applied, the large presses will stand a strain of one hundred and fifty tons. Sometimes government and other large medals are struck which require this heavy power.

After being stamped the coins are taken to the chief coiner's room and placed on a long table—the double eagles in piles of ten each. It will be remembered that, in the Adjusting Room, a difference of one half a grain was made in the weight of some of the double eagles. The light and heavy ones are kept separate in coining, and, when delivered over to the treasurer, they are mixed together in such proportions as to give him full weight in every delivery. By law the deviation from the standard weight, in delivering to him, must not exceed three pennyweights in one thousand double eagles. The gold coins—as small as double eagles being counted, and weighed to verify the count—are put up in bags of five thousand dollars each. The three dollar pieces are put up in bags of three thousands dollars, and one dollar pieces in one thousand dollar bags. The silver pieces and sometimes small gold are counted on a very ingenious contrivance called a “counting-board,” somewhat resembling a common wash-board. They are all subsequently weighed, however, to verify the correctness of the counting. For the various duties of the Mint there are about two hundred persons employed as clerks, workmen, etc.—say one hundred and forty men and sixty women—the number depending, of course, upon the amount of work to be done.

REMARKS ON MODEL DESIGNS OF TWO ROYAL SEALS FOR MARYLAND IN AMERICA, AND THE ISLAND OF JAMAICA, BY SIMON, IN THE REIGN OF CHARLES II. (ABOUT 1662-3).

PREPARED BY DR. CHARLES CLAY.

A paper read by him before the Manchester (England) Numismatic Society, April, 1870.

(Concluded.)

The two beautiful model designs in plaster which I now offer for your inspection, and which are evidently the work of Simon, must have been executed after the Restoration; and as he was removed from the mint in 1662, they must have been designed before the date of the Petition Crown in 1663. The date of the models would certainly be about the year 1662, just before Simon's exit from the mint; and this view is strengthened by the subjects of the models themselves:—one being a design for the seal of the colony of Maryland, in America (the earliest coins of which are dated 1661); and the other being for the island of Jamaica, on which are full-length figures of Charles II and Catharine of Braganza, whose marriage was in 1661. Neither of these models were ever worked from; they are, therefore, unique. Most probably, when Simon was superseded by the Rottiers and ejected from the mint, all his models or works in progress were neglected and thrown aside; and his death occurring

so soon after, fully accounts for the want of documentary evidence respecting his unfinished labors.

That such valuable relics should not be lost is the object of these remarks; and perhaps no community will be more surprised than the Americans to find that a royal seal, unknown to them, was designed by Simon in the time of Charles II. The illustrations to these remarks were undertaken by our indefatigable treasurer, M. Delmard, and I need scarcely add they are most faithfully copied by his efforts. I append descriptions.

Fig. 1. Maryland Seal. Legend, SIGILLVM PROVINIÆ DE MARYLAND IN AMERICA. Royal cypher C R A under the crown. Circular. Size, American scale, 68; or English measure, $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Fig. 2. Jamaica Seal. Charles II and Catharine of Braganza standing; at their feet an Indian kneeling, presenting fruit; above, the arms of Jamaica. No date.

THE PRECIOUS STONES, THEIR HISTORY AND VALUE.

Including the Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Topaz, Emerald, Amethyst, Carnelian, Garnet, Onyx, Sardonyx, Heliotrope, Chrysolite, Hyacinth, Cat's Eye, Opal, Pearl and Turquoise.

BY H. R.

(Continued.)

The Emerald is a composition of silica, alumina and glucina, colored generally green by chrome oxide. It is of various shades of green, sometimes colorless, sometimes inclining to blue and yellow. Those species not green, however, are specifically known as beryl or aqua-marine—the coloring matter in them being iron peroxide. Emeralds are found in the shape of six-sided prisms, with lateral faces smooth, and varying from transparent to translucent. It is not affected by acids. It is found chiefly in Peru. Less beautiful varieties are met with in India, Ceylon, Greenland and Siberia. It is cut in various forms, the Brilliant, the Rose and the Table styles. It is usually set with a green substance behind it, unless of a very fine quality, when they are open-set. They sell at the price of twelve dollars per carat. One of twenty-four grains, at the auction of the Marquis de Dree, sold for 2400 francs. It may be very successfully imitated.

The Spanish conquerors of Peru heard there was in the Valley of Manta, a temple dedicated to the Goddess Emerald. Of course, they hastened to pay their devoirs at the shrine of so respectable a divinity. But, on reaching the temple, they found that the goddess had disappeared. However, finding there a large number of daughter of the "Mother of the Emeralds" (as the goddess was entitled by the priests), they took possession of these for their own behoof.

The Mexican kings prized these stone so highly that they were accustomed to pierce their nostrils and there hang one of the finest specimens they could procure. They put them also upon the faces of their idols.

If we may credit an old writer, the traffic in them from America must, at one time, have been enormous. For he says that, in the fleet which came from the Indies, in the year 1587, there were two great chests of Emeralds. If this be fact, the number in circulation must, we think, have diminished.

Highly as these stones have ever been prized by Europeans, it would seem that Orientals have valued them more highly still. For Tavernier says, that, in his day, Emeralds, and indeed nearly all the precious stones, except the Diamond, brought better prices in Asia than in Europe.

This stone is especially noted for the extravagant traditions concerning it.

Thus it is gravely recorded, that the victorious Saracens captured, at the Spanish city, Toledo, a table three hundred and sixty feet long, constructed of a single Emerald! Also, that an obelisk stood there, composed of four Emeralds only, which was sixty feet high! It is also stated that in the Cathedral treasury of Genoa was preserved, in 1780, a hexagonal bowl of Emerald, of which the broadest diameter was fourteen and a half inches. In 1319, this bowl was pledged to a certain cardinal for 1200 gold marks, and twelve years elapsed before the city could raise this sum for its redemption. In 1726, a volume was published in Genoa, which professed to demonstrate, by authorities, that this identical vessel had once belonged to King Solomon, and was an item of the presents brought to him by the Queen of Sheba.

It must be confessed that it is rather a sorry downfall of the romance concerning this stone, to find it more than probable that all these large specimens are neither more nor less than green glass, or at best rock-crystal, imbedded, perhaps, with portions of aqua-marine. For it is stated that in Peru, which yields the finest in the world, no one larger than an ostrich's egg has ever been mentioned, and that such a one ever existed is extremely doubtful.

Tradition says that the famous magician, Hermes Trismegistus, engraved on an Emerald a panacea for all human maladies, which was enclosed with his body in his tomb. Rather a selfish proceeding, it seems to us.

As a fact belonging to modern times, we would mention that the sceptre of Poland was a simple piece of beryl, two feet long. It has been broken in the middle, and is now in the possession of Russia.

(To be continued.)

COUNTERFEIT ANCIENT COIN AND MEDALS, AND THE ART OF DISTINGUISHING THEM FROM THE TRUE.

(Continued)

ANCIENT MEDALS RETOUCHEE AND ALTERED.

This is the species of deception which is the most apt to impose even on the skillful; and one must know a good deal of medals not to be the dupe of it. The art exerted in this class is astonishing;

and a connoisseur is apt the less to suspect it, as the coins themselves are in fact ancient. The acute minds of the Italian artists exerted themselves in this way, when the other kind of forgeries became common and known. With graving tools they alter the portrait, the reverses, the inscriptions themselves, in a surprising manner. Of a Claudius, struck at Antioch, they make an Otho: of a Faustina, a Titiana: of a Julia Severi, a Didia Clara: of a Macrinus, a Pescennius: of an Orbiana, an Annia Faustina: of a Mamæa, a Tranquillina; of a Philip, an Emilian. Give them a Marcus Aurelius, he starts up a Pertinas, by thickening the beard a little, and enlarging the nose. In short, wherever there is the least resemblance in persons, reverses or legends, an artist of this class can, from a trivial medal, generate a most scarce and valuable one.

This fraud is distinguishable by the false varnish which sometimes masks it; but, above all, by the letters of the legend, which are always altered. Though this is sometimes done with an artifice almost miraculous, yet most commonly the characters straggle, are disunited, and not in a line.

Medals of this class are often met with of which the obverse has not been touched, but the reverse made hollow, then filled with mastic of the color of the coin, which is engraved with such device and legend as the artist knew was uncommon, and would bear a great price.

Others are only retouched in some minute particular, which however very much diminish the value of the coin.

Against all these arts severe scrutiny must be used by the purchaser upon the medal itself; and the investigation and opinion of eminent antiquaries had upon its being altered or genuine as it issued from the mint.

AUTOGRAPH LETTER OF LADY STANHOPE.

We are indebted to R. C. Davis, Esq., of this city, for a translation, from Italian, of the following unpublished letter, written by the celebrated Lady Stanhope:

Lady Stanhope was a niece of the celebrated English Minister Pitt. Through her great ability in literary pursuits and shrewdness in politics, she became his private secretary while he was in office as minister, and, after his death, a pension was awarded to her by the King of England. She afterwards went to Syria and settled down on Mount Lebanon, where she gained the reputation among the Mohammedan people as a supernatural being. The fear and jealousy of the Pashas of the neighboring provinces was very great; and, while she sent her steward, Mattei Lunardi, to Livorno (in English called Leghorn) to buy provisions for her, she received a notice from England that Queen Victoria had stopped her pension. Hence the letter.

GIUN, 13th March, 1838.

You must know (and I do not say it to make you melancholy, for everything will be made right, as will appear), but you must know

that, at a time when I feel contented with the prospect of my affairs, the Queen of England has taken it in head, under pretence of having power over my pension, to direct that it should be taken to pay some of my old debts, as suits her pleasure. You know that I have no more fear of a crowned head than of a peasant; and, I imagine, she will never have received a letter similar to that I wrote to her, in which I resign my pension and abandon the name of English subject. It is possible that this step of mine will occasion, for awhile, some imbroglio in my affairs, and will be known throughout Europe. I told you in my last letter that the illustrious lady, who was to arrive here from America, had deferred her voyage for the present; wherefore, if you have the intention of coming to this country, there is no reason for delay as far as I am concerned. I had hoped to be able to send you a large sum to discharge my commissions, and to be able to give you some decided opinion as to what you had best do in case you should come here; but this is not the time for speculation. The Druses seeing their children taken by force to Nazairs (after having paid nearly 8000 *borse* (?) for their redemption), have fled in great numbers to Horan, which country is in rebellion and carries on a war with the Nablusunani. It is said that J. P. has lost 30,000 men; but the fact is he has lost nearly 12,000 and the greater part of his best officers. I believe that he has discovered that the Nazairs do not succeed everywhere, as was imagined, provided they are placed against resolute men, sword in hand. He has, therefore, ordered to be secured a great number of Albanains, and it is said that these have already disembarked, with orders to throw themselves suddenly upon Damascus. Further, three nations of negroes have risen against M. A., and have united to do all the damage possible; and even in other places affairs do not seem to present a more pleasing aspect. People, then, will not run the risk of speculation. The moment for this will be when affairs begin to flourish. For instance, some persons that had money hidden disinterred it, glad to find others to lend their name. Other persons, who had returned to their homes half ruined, wished to purchase certain things necessary to their well being. The wages of laborers are doubled, from the scarcity of people, and some of the lower class have gathered a fine sum of money by having substituted their own children in the place of the children of others. A Druse, that I know, had made an offer of 12,000 p. to L. for his black slave—smaller than Alledalla. There are those who have offered from 15 to 20,000 for one to substitute another. As everybody becomes, daily, an imitation of the French, spoons of iron whitened, and deep dishes, with covers, and stew-pans of wrought iron; likewise, tea and the vessels for making the tea (or teapots) of metal are in vogue. Some dozens of vases of Naples soap may be bought, in which a special pleasure is taken; but to distinguish it from other mixtures that might be made here, it is necessary to have prepared peculiar designs, well colored, to cover the vases—with Mount Vesuvius in red flames, and a gentle-

men and lady observing with a telescope, or some other similar idea; and then there will be no other talk than of the "*Sabunnin beled el Nar.*"

The porters have lately gained much at the inferior trades which are indispensable. All they gain they spend in superfluities for their wives and children. The peasants of Giun and of other villages clothed themselves for some time past in striped muslins—they scorn the idea of wearing the linen of Egypt—as they formerly did. Colored handkerchiefs, of every variety, square Bocgi, printed with different flowers, a yard and a half broad, for the women, who use them as girdles. Common fans, with soldiers, shepherds, figures, etc.; others, without figures—with Mount Vesuvius, a palace, an edifice (but not a ruined edifice, the Turks do not love ruins); others with birds, animals, flowers, fruits; others of a fine workmanship, and of these each has its paper envelope; among these last you may have beautiful figures of women, shut up in the Cassa of some Effendi, to pass some months there before reaching the apartment of his wife. These, at the first or second selling, would be sold at four or five times their cost. The fans will sell—made of paper or of cock's skin—provided they be well colored and with various objects depicted. If there were only some chicken skins for certain personages it would not be bad. Spectacles, eye glasses, carpenters' tools, writing desks, with gilt heads, clocks of every quality—such are the articles from which one might gain some small profit at the present moment. It would not be proper to enter into an extensive speculation until it is seen how things will end. In regard to my commissions, it may be that I shall have to place them in the hands of Signor Chioppe, and so you will have the goodness to explain to him of what nature they will be. For instance, I do not wish those plates, cups, dishes and other blue Fayence ware of common English manufacture; but a dozen dishes of every kind, with covers, large and small; a soup tureen, large and small, for each dozen, with two dozen plates and one dozen suitable for the potage. In case, then, of sending, I shall have need of five kinds of different quality and beauty. Further various kinds of cups and things for tea, common or select; basins, urinals, vases, pitchers, a case of different articles in white ware that are always useful and can be bought in a large store for a small sum. German cloth for the table and house, of all sorts, and strong cloth that will not wear from the washing of the women of this country. Various other things to furnish the house. You can thus express yourself to Signor Chioppe, in case, only, that you see by the public journals, before your departure, that my affairs are progressing well. If I am rich, I will have the pleasure of serving you; if I shall be poor, I hope I shall not want the means to do you good by means of others. Mrs. James should not complain of your departure; perhaps, even to her and her children it will, in the future, be advantageous. It will not be useless to bring with you some specimens of porcelain and Fayence ware that

are found in Leghorn, for example, a cup, a basin, a water jug, etc., one article of each sort, with the price by the dozen. Have I credit for a piece of flannel like that from Majaini, that you can bring it with you? Mary is married to the husband of Madame Eugenie, who purchased her with large golden rings for the arms and legs.

HESTER LUCY STANHOPE.

To AL SIGNORE MATTEI LUNARDI,
In Casa di Madame Webb James,
In Livorno.

NUMISMATIC NOMENCLATURE; OR, THE COIN COLLECTORS' LEXICON.

BY E. MASON, JR.

(Concluded.)

Uncirculated.—Used by collectors, not as to its literal meaning, but to designate a piece as *perfect*; unworn and uninjured.

Union Token.—Medalets containing patriotic designs and mottoes, issued during the rebellion of 1861-65.

Unique.—Only one of a kind.

Varnished.—Having a coating of gum or other material to protect a coin from corrosion.

Variety.—Slight difference in design, lettering or date.

Vellou.—About $4\frac{1}{4}$ cents, Spanish money.

Verd Antique.—Green rust on copper coins.

Vines and Bars.—Found on the edge of some of the 1793 U. S. cents, and used to discriminate between a cent of same date having the edge lettered.

Washington Piece.—Any coin or medal having the bust or name of Washington thereon.

Wampum.—Belts or strings of shells used as money by the Indians.

ENGLISH SILVER COINS, FROM THE NORMAN CONQUEST.

ARRANGED BY E. M., JR.

[Selected from Ackerman's Numismatic Manual, now out of print.]

(Continued.)

MARY, 1553.

Obverse.—The obverse of the coins of this queen, before her marriage, have her head crowned and in profile to the right. The base penny has a rose. The half shilling and shilling, after her marriage, have the busts of Mary and Philip facing each other, with a crown above. The half crown has the head of Philip on one side and that of Mary on the other, each with a crown above it. Some of the coins, after their marriage, have the date above the heads, some underneath, but many are without any date.

Reverse.—The royal arms and cross in the same manner as on the last coinage of her brother, except the shilling and its half, which

have the arms of England and Spain impaled in an oval shield, crowned, with the numerals XII and VI over it.

Rarity.—The base penny with the rose is very rare; the half crown of the first rarity; the half groat and penny are extremely rare. The groat common; those of the shillings and half shillings which have the date under the head are the rarest; those without date and value are very scarce; the other shillings are scarce in good preservation.

ELIZABETH, 1558.

Hammered Money.—The money of Elizabeth must be so well known that a description of it will be scarcely necessary, although a notice of the various denominations coined during her reign may be required. The type of her shillings, half shillings, groats and half groats must be familiar to every one. On her crown and half crown she appears with the sceptre in her right hand and the globe in her left. The half shilling, three penny, three half penny and three farthing pieces may be known by the rose behind the head, which distinguishes them from the shilling, groat, half groat and penny. The half penny has a portcullis; reverse, a cross and pellets. All the above are exceedingly common, except the three farthing piece, which is scarce, and the half shillings of the years 1563, 1597 and 1599. The half crown of her last year is rare. Coins with rare mint marks bear a high price.

Milled Money.—The artist first employed on the milled money of England was a Frenchman, named Philip Mestrelle, who was executed at Tyburn, on the 27th of January, 1569, having been found guilty of making counterfeit money. The milled coins of Elizabeth differ but slightly from the other. The types are nearly the same, but of much neater execution; the coins are also rounder; the edges are grained and the inner circle on the obverse is omitted. The three farthing piece of this coinage is very scarce and the half crown is extremely rare.

(*To be continued.*)

HISTORY OF THE COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS, ETC., OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM.

(*Continued.*)

MAGDALEN ISLAND.

1. C. Obv.—Within a circle, a seal. "MAGDALEN ISLAND TOKEN 1815." Rev.—Within a circle, a codfish. "SUCCESS TO THE FISHERY, ONE PENNY." Edge engrailed.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

1. C. Obv.—Sheaf of wheat, with sickle. "PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND HALF PENNY 1840." Rev. A plough. "COMMERCE AND TRADE." Very rare. Edge plain.

2. C. Obv.—A plough. "SPEED THE PLOUGH." Rev.—A codfish. "SUCCESS TO THE FISHERIES." Several varieties of this coin

(which was struck in 1840) are in circulation, the difference being in the shape of the plough.

3. C. Obv.—“PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND 1855.” Rev.—“SELF GOVERNMENT AND FREE TRADE.” Edge plain.

4. C. Same as No. 5, “1857.” Rev.—do., do.

5. C. Obv.—“PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND 1855.” Rev.—Same as No. 3.

6. C. Obv.—Steamship to left, “HALF PENNY TOKEN.” Rev.—“FISHERIES AND AGRICULTURE.”

(To be continued.)

GREEK AND ROMAN COINS.

“A series of an emperor's coins is his life digested into annals.” Addison.

COMPILED BY E. M., JR.

GREEK CIVIC COINS.

Coins of Ægina—Various Denominations of Greek Silver Coins—Copper Coins, with their Divisions—Gold Coins of Sicily of an Early Date—Small Gold Coins of Cyrene—Gold Coins of various Cities in Greece—List of Coins of Cities using Greek Characters.

EUROPE.

(Continued.)

CARTHEA.

Laureated male head, to the right.

Reverse.—KAPO, fore part of a dog, to the left, surrounded by rays; below, a bee.—Æ.

Some have the head of Bacchus.

ANDRUS INSULA.

Head of Bacchus, to the right.

Reverse.—AN, a vase with two handles, an ear of corn in the field.—AR.

CORESIA.

A male head to the right.

Reverse.—A star.—Æ.

Or, head of Apollo laureated, to the right.

Reverse.—KOPH, a bee.—Æ.

IULIS.

Laureated head, to the right.

Reverse.—IOYA, a bee.—Æ.

Sometimes the head of Bacchus.

PAROS INSULA.

Head of Bacchus crowned with ivy.

Reverse.—TAPI, a goat, a star before it.—Æ.

Some are counter marked with a helmet.

AMISUS.

Laureated head of Jupiter, to the right.

Reverse.—AMIΞ OY, an eagle on a thunderbolt with a monogram.

Some have the reverse of Victory, some a quiver.

(To be continued.)

CLOSED!

Another volume of our journal closes with the present number, and we may be pardoned for apparent egotism in remarking the improved condition of the fourth volume. The additional support we received in the early part of the present year enabled us to add four pages of matter to each number of this volume, and if our patrons conclude to unite with us in efforts to establish, permanently, a useful and interesting work, devoted to scientific objects, we can predict an increase in quantity and quality of matter for the ensuing volume.

The principal numismatic event of the year was the four days' sale of the Fewsmith cabinet, in New York. Other sales of minor importance have occurred; but the "four days' sale" will be remembered as an event second only in interest to the sale of the Mickley cabinet, in 1867. The increase of coin collectors and dealers during the year has been marked, and adds further evidence of the stability of the coin trade. New journals have been added this year to the list of those engaged in propagating the different sciences. Among the latter *The Numismatic Journal*, of Boston; *The Antiquarian* and *The Curiosity Cabinet*, of New York. Although the year now closing has not been, in a business or pecuniary point, a successful one; and money has not been at the ready command of many who indulge in the luxury of augmenting their collection of rarities; yet, take it all in all, we feel pleased to record the fact that collectors have steadily maintained an interest in and a determination to stand by their hobbies. Many of our readers presume that the fact of a prominent numismatist offering his cabinet for sale is *prima facie* evidence that coin collecting is on the back track or on the retrograde. This is not really the case. Mickley, who disposed of his collection from fear of burglars, and who had a narrow escape with his life when robbed of a portion of his splendid cabinet, in this city, was solely influenced by self-protection, and, we are happy to say, has returned to his early love, or, in other words, entered the numismatic brotherhood again as a collector. Mr. Fewsmith, also, has commenced the formation of a cabinet and exhibits his usual interest in rare and choice coins. So with others. "Once a Mason, always a Mason," is an old, and we might say, trite saying among a certain band of secret brothers, and the saying might apply with equal force, slightly changed, to numismatists: "*Once a coin collector, always one.*" Habits once formed have a special hold on the feelings, and it is difficult to forego the pleasures that attach to a pursuit so full of interest as coin collecting when one has been fully committed to it.

In closing the present volume, we return thanks to the many friends and patrons whose approving smiles have influenced the continuation of our good work, and whose kind aid, we trust, will carry us through another volume with mutual satisfaction to publishers and subscribers. Having nearly finished this article, the fumes of a roasted turkey convince us that another thing is to be finished ere long, and on this Thanksgiving day, with our little ones gathered at the board,

awaiting the appearance of the carver, we can but wish a Merry Christmas for all, and *a la* Taylor, a Happy New Year *for the rest of mankind!*

PUBLIC SALE OF CONTINENTAL AND COLONIAL PAPER MONEY, COINS, AUTOGRAPHS, ETC.

The sale of Mr. Idler's private collection of paper money will come off at Leavitt, Strebeigh & Co.'s Trade Sales Room, New York, on the 21st inst. This collection includes a complete set of the Continental bills, in very fine condition. The Colonial notes form a very handsome collection, nearly all in the finest condition. Mr. Idler's collection was made while he was engaged as a coin dealer in this city, and is not the surplus, or left over, stock of a dealer, but his own private collection selected with great care and expense during almost a lifetime. In addition to the paper money will be sold a small collection of coins, minerals, Indian stone implements, etc., belonging to a private party. Catalogues now ready.

INFORMATION WANTED.

A handsome reward will be paid to any party informing us from whence and whom came the report that the Fewsmith Cabinet of coins had been tampered with before the sale of October 4, and that all the choice cents in that collection had been reserved for private parties. This vile report lessened the pecuniary results of said sale, and we wish to publish the name of the miscreant who would seek to undervalue and injure another's private property for selfish motives. The report was circulated extensively in Boston, and was mentioned to Elliot, of Lowell, Colburn, Crosby, Trifet and others of Boston. Mr. Trifet denies giving publicity to the report, but heard it frequently mentioned before the sale. All communications upon this subject confidentially considered.

MINT DROPS.

A PATTERN for a new silver dollar, it is said, was designed by the late Mr. Longacre, Engraver at U. S. Mint, and specimens have been struck—not for sale.

THE PACKER CABINET of coins will be sold early in February, in New York.

COINS of the new French Republic are out.

DR. CHARLES CLAY, Manchester, England, has a Virginia half penny, dated 1774.

UNITED STATES PROOF SETS FOR 1870 are all sold. The United States Mint sends applicants to Mason & Co.'s Coin Store.

REBELLION TOKENS AND STORE CARDS are looking up in price.

OUR FIRST SUBSCRIBER.

Prof. Anthon, of New York, heads the list of subscribers to Volume 5 of our magazine. Who is the next customer?

THE PACKER CABINET.

Of Ex-Governor Packer, who recently died, it is said that he had a collection of coins, ancient and modern, second only to one other in the country. His cabinet of coins is said to be worth from \$10,000 to \$20,000. This immense collection he had made with great labor and sacrifice of time and money. During the laying of a pavement near his house, three years ago, he was daily seen walking along the streets, where the workmen had made excavations and thrown up the ground, looking for coins, and in this way found several very rare ones. He knew the history of every coin in his cabinet, and all the associations connected therewith. His coins consist of specimens from before the Christian era down to the present time.—*Philadelphia Ledger*.

That the late Ex-Governor Packer had a fine collection of coins is true, but the above extract places the value of the collection far beyond their real worth. We should suppose the collection worth about five thousand dollars. The idea of finding coins in the ground under a pavement is certainly new. We opine that the rare coins in the Packer cabinet were found at the coin dealers' stores at a heavy outlay for the find.

RARE CENTS.

The opportunities for obtaining U. S. copper cents of 1793, 1799 and 1804 are becoming few and far between; and, unless a better supply comes into the market for the ensuing year, from some, at present, unknown source, these rarities will advance in price greatly. We are now selling these pieces at an advance of twenty-five per cent. on last year's prices. Time was when a little call through the press, in the shape of an advertisement, would produce an ample supply; but, now, when scores of collectors are added to the list of hobbyists, it is extremely difficult to meet the demand. Parties having duplicates of these rare cents will oblige by sending rubbings, with their price in cash or trade, to this office.

AN AMUSING ERROR.

The *New York Evening Mail*, in an editorial notice of the sale of Fewsmith's cabinet, October 4, describes Lot No. 1605 (catalogued as the "ugliest of all known Washingtons") as follows: "Among some amusing pieces is a bust of the ugliest man in Washington in past times." It is difficult to perceive how such an amusing blunder could occur when we remember that the writer had correctly enumerated half a column of pieces from the catalogue.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

We request our patrons who wish to continue their subscriptions to send early notice, as the January number will not be sent unless we receive notice of continuation. After January, 1871, we cannot promise to supply the preceding number.

Philatelic Department.

E. MASON, JR., EDITOR.

NEW ISSUES.

FRANCE.—Let us commence with that most popular thing at present—a rumor. It is rumored, then, that, on and after the first day of November, the imperial stamps will be deposed and a new republican series will take their place. It seems we are not to have the old design with the head of Liberty; this time Freedom is to sit for a full length portrait, and underneath will be written the words which the Mayor of Paris has been assiduously scrawling on the churches and public buildings of besieged Paris—*Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite*. The values no doubt will be the same; though, probably, only the 10 and 20 centimes will at first appear. These will be urgently required in Paris for the post cards and letters forwarded by balloon, and will also be needed in the provinces, where the supplies of the imperial stamps are beginning to run very short.

RUSSIA — *Belozersk*.—We have just received from our St. Petersburg correspondent specimens of a new stamp which does duty for the Belozersk village post, and is of the value of 2 kopeks. It is an upright rectangle, the frame being formed of a double line; the figure 2 on a black disk appears in each corner, and the centre of the stamp is occupied with the inscription; the ground consists of lines forming a kind of fluted pattern, and these lines are in red; the rest of the stamp is in black, and the whole is on white paper. Our copy is obliterated with a pen stroke.

CUNDINAMAICA.—Specimens of the 5 and 10 centavos for this State are before us; they are rectangular, on plain white paper, lithographed and not perforated. The two designs slightly vary; but the chief features consist of the eagle surmounting the arms and a trophy, as in the stamps of New Granada, and a fancy border, CORREOS CUNDINAMAICA. The values are:

5 centavos, pale blue.

10 centavos, red.

GREAT BRITAIN.—There are already two varieties of the post card in existence. The one measures $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches by $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; the other, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches by 3 inches, and the former is uniformly found of a darker shade than the latter. We have it, on good authority, that no more of the former size will be made, because it is found that, when tied up with the ordinary letters, the large ones get cut by the string.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—Two new stamps for this colony have appeared, each of which bears a portrait of her Majesty the Queen to right, in widow's weeds. They are very similar in design to the Canadian fiscal stamps emitted some time back. The word NEWFOUNDLAND, in curved label, appears immediately above the portrait; large figure of value in upper, and stars in lower corners. The values and colors are as follows:

3 cents, red.

6 cents, carmine.

NEW GRANADA.—M. Moens wittily remarks that the post office department at Bogota is a regular stamp *mitrailleuse*. The first stamp of a new series is out, intended to supercede the set which began to appear in 1868, and has never been completed. The color of this new arrival is pale yellow on white. As to the design—we abstain from criticism.—*Stamp Collectors' Magazine*.

CUBA.—Army stamps are rife in the present dolorous state of affairs. One emitted in Cuba, bears a circular impression in black on white, with Spanish inscription, the translation of which reads "General Command of the Operations of . . ." E. M. The 10 centimos, blue, and 20 c., green, of 1867, have been seen imperforate, with margins broad enough to leave no doubt on the subject.

SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.—In addition to the proofs of the three penny value in pink and blue, we have received specimens of buff colored.

RUSSIA.—M. Moens chronicles a 20 kopeck on laid paper, unwatermarked.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—A correspondent favors us by announcing the arrival of a four penny, blue, of this colony, surcharged with 3 PENCE in red across the value.—*Philatelist*.

UNIQUE CONFEDERATE LOCAL.

By the kindness of Robert C. Davis, of this city, we have received for examination the Greenville, Ala., postage stamp referred to in a preceding number. The stamp is printed on thick white glazed paper resembling fine wall paper, about the size and shape of our new three cent postage stamp. The designs are composed of scrolls, at the upper and lower ends, printed in blue ink, divided in the centre by two lines, running well across the stamp, printed in red ink, reading: "PAID . FIVE . GREENVILLE, ALA." The stamp was obtained by Mr. Davis from a brother who resided in Greenville, and was torn from a letter that passed through the Greenville post office during the rebellion.

FRENCH POSTAGE STAMPS.

The French postage stamps now bear a figure of Liberty, representing the Republic, with the legend, "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity." The foreign journals announce that after November 1, the stamps bearing the head of Napoleon III would not be recognized in payment of postage.

ALSACE AND LORRAINE.

We have a few sets of stamps of these Franco-Prussian conquered provinces, viz.: 1 centime, green; 2 centimes, brown; 4 centimes, gray; 10 centimes, bistre, and 20 centimes, blue, for 75 cents per set, unused. These postage stamps will be in the future of great historical interest, as mementoes of the extraordinary Prussian invasion of France in 1870.

STAMP WASHERS.

So enormous are the losses of the government from the frauds of the stamp washers, who collect old stamps and clean and sell them for new, that the government would find it economy to furnish stamped envelopes free to the public except the usual postage duty.—*Exchange.*

We opine that the stamps alluded to are sold to collectors, and that the general public are in error in supposing that the desire for used postage stamps emanates from a disposition to impose upon the government by using the stamps a second time.

PRICED CATALOGUE OF NEW YORK POSTAGE STAMP SALE.

MAY 28, 1870.

(Concluded.)

- 10 good Colonial stamps, including View of Sydney. \$1.
- Vols. I and II, bound, American Journal of Philately. \$1 50.
- 1 American Lallier's Album, cloth. \$2 50.
- 1 American Lallier's Album, gilt, morocco. \$3.
- 1 American Lallier's Album half morocco. \$2.
- A collection of 215 stamps, nearly all unused, including sets of Sicily and other good stamps. in good morocco bound album. \$6.
- 12 Canadian Law Stamps, used. 50 cents.
- 12 Canadian Law Stamps, used. 35 cents.
- 12 Canadian Law Stamps, used. 35 cents.
- 12 Canadian Law Stamps, used. 35 cents.
- 10 varieties of Mexican Stamps. \$1 00.
- 5 varieties of essays for new U. S. Revenues. \$1 75.
- 5 varieties of essays for new U. S. Revenues. \$1 50.
- 5 varieties specimens, two very scarce Greece. \$2.
- 6 varieties American Bank Note Co., specimens. \$1 75.
- 1 1 shilling, blue paper, New Zealand. \$1.
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ real, 1865, St. Domingo. 80 cents.
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ real, 1865, and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ real, italic letters, St. Domingo. \$1.
- 1 10 cent, St. Louis Stamp. \$3 25.
- 5 and 10 cent St. Louis Stamps; these are very scarce. \$9.
- 12 varieties of specimen U. S. 1861 issue. \$3 25.
- 1 proof, original design, 12 cents, 1869 issue, U. S.
- 7 good South American Stamps. 60 cents.
- 2 Confederate locals, Memphis and New Orleans. \$1 12.
- 3 scarce Stamps, Queensland and Mauritius, 5 shillings. 75 cents.
- 6 good Stamps, first issue, Nova Scotia, New Granada. 62 cents.
- 50 Colonial Stamps. 50 cents.

CROWDED OUT.

Replies to Correspondents, Coin Sales, Anecdotes and several other articles, all of which will appear in the next number.

SALE OF PAPER MONEY, COINS, ETC.,

AT
LEAVITT, STREBEIGH & CO.'S ROOMS,
CLINTON HALL, ASTOR PLACE, NEW YORK,

ON
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1870,
AT 5 O'CLOCK P. M.

WILLIAM IDLER'S PRIVATE COLLECTION
OF
COLONIAL AND CONTINENTAL PAPER MONEY.

ALSO,

A PRIVATE COLLECTION OF
COINS, MEDALS, INDIAN RELICS, AUTOGRAPHS, ETC.

Orders executed by Edward Cogan, 95 William Street, and Charles F. De Burns, 127 Mercer Street, New York; A. C. Kline and Mason & Co., Philadelphia, and by the Auctioneers.

CALIFORNIA GOLD COINS.

Gold Dollar, octagon,	\$1 75.
Gold Half Dollar, octagon,	1 00.
Gold Quarter Dollar, octagon,	50.
Gold Half Dollar, round,	1 00.
Gold Quarter Dollar, round,	50.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

FOREIGN COINS.

100 Common Coins, all different,	\$2 00.
100 Common Coins, in good condition,	3 00.
100 Selected Coins, in fine condition,	5 00.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

UNITED STATES PROOF SETS.

Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1859,	\$5 50.
Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1860,	5 50.
Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1861 to 1869, each,	5 00.
Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1870,	4 50.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

PRICED CATALOGUES OF FEWSMITH CABINET.

Owing to the scarcity of the catalogues of the New York sale of October 4, 5, 6 and 7, our terms are as follows:

Priced Catalogue,	\$5 00.
Unpriced Catalogue,	3 00.

Parties mailing their catalogues can have them priced for \$2.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

1870 Coin Price Current, now ready, containing a list of coins on sale, with price of each.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.